

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNWFC, IFAD, EFIN, EAID

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAREI'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
FUNDS FROM OPEC COUNTRIES FOR INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

FODAG

1. RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PRESIDENT
SAYED MAREI IS RECEIVING ASSURANCES OF CONTRIBUTION BY SAUDI
ARABIA TO INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT,
BUT IRANIAN CONTRIBUTION DEPENDS UPON MAREI'S VISIT TO TALK
PERSONALLY WITH SHAH - WHICH HAS BEEN TWICE DEFERRED. SOURCE
REPORTS IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO INDICATES CONTRIBUTION
WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IF MAREI GOES TO TALK DIRECTLY WITH SHAH.

2. ALTHOUGH MAREI DURING MEETING IN ROME MARCH 1 WITH REPRESENT-
ATIVES OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEMBER COUNTRIES REFERRED TO MANY
CONTACTS WITH HIGH-LEVEL OPEC OFFICIALS, THIS SOURCE INDICATES
THAT THESE CONTACTS WERE ALL IN CAIRO, AS TOP OR SECOND-LEVEL
OFFICIALS TRANSITED THERE, AND THAT MAREI HAS NOT VENTURED
FROM CAIRO.

3. COMMENT: THIS REPORT IS NOT INTENDED AS CRITICISM OF MAREI'S
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FAILURE TO TRAVEL, WHICH HE PROBABLY IS UNABLE TO DO BECAUSE

OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS NO. 2 IN EGYPT. IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS INABILITY TO TRAVEL IS IMPORTANT SHORT-COMING IN EFFORTS TO ELICIT OPEC FUNDS, AND THAT HE IS CONCEALING IT AND EVEN GIVING CONTRARY IMPRESSION IN HIS STATEMENTS.
VOLPE

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